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Many honest workers have been taken in by these statements. The trade unions must now expose the disseminators of these tales. They must explain to the workers that since the government expects to raise the standard of living by lowering prices rather than by increasing wages, persons who lower norms or encourage the mishandling of the wage fund increase production costs and thereby defeat the realization of the government program.

At the same time, the trade unions must pay increased attention to the rights of the workers. There is still much abuse in this field. Some enterprises interpret decrees to bureaucratically. They turn a deaf ear to grievances, and cite page and paragraph from some decree instead of investigating and correcting the trouble. The specifications of the labor code are ignored also. At the Soproni Teglagyar (Sopron Brick Factory), changes in the wage fund were used as a pretext for raising norms; in other places, wages were not commensurate with the work actually performed, and pay deductions were made for work stoppages beyond the control of the workers. In a great many shops, the decree curtailing overtime is disregarded. Although the records show a reduction in overtime, workers are ordered to work on Sundays and holidays. Forty workers of the Duna Cipogvar (Danube Shoe Factory) were called on to put the storeroom in order on Sunday. It was necessary for the trade union to insist that they be paid for their time, because the enterprise planned to record it as "voluntary socialist work." The trade unions must make certain that overtime is permitted only when necessary. This will make enterprise managers organize work more efficiently.

Another important task of the trade unions is to improve the work of the grievance committees. These committees, whose duty is to take care of the workers' complaints, too often become a tool of the management. The discussion of complaints is postponed indefinitely. There is much delay in informing those concerned of the decision finally reached, and the decision itself is often unexplained. The committees make no attempt to see whether or not their decisions have been enforced. The result of this negligence is still further delay or complete disregard of the decision.

EXCESSIVE OVERTIME, POOR WORKING CONDITIONS CAUSE SLUMP AT FECS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 23 Jul 53

Coal production at the Beke Shaft in Fecs, which fulfilled the quota 107.1 percent in June, dropped to 90.5 of the quota in July. The shaft master claims that insufficient manpower caused the slump and feels that it can be remedied only by extra shifts.

In the past, many of the miners at the Beke Shaft worked 16 - 18 hours daily, and some of them worked 46 - 48 shifts per month instead of the regular 25 - 26. Many of the miners were so exhausted that they were obliged to take rest days during the week, with the result that production dropped. This kind of overtime is illegal.

The real remedies for production setbacks are improved discipline and improved working conditions. On 7 July, 165 miners were absent from work without legitimate excuses. The supervisors are unable to handle the situation because fines have been abolished. They are so used to fining offenders that it never occurs to them to use persuasion and appeal. The workers have cause for dissatisfaction, too. There is frequently insufficient compressed air to operate the machinery. The poorly ventilated shafts become hot and the engineer claims he cannot correct the condition because he has no thermometer. Some of the shafts are filled with knee-deep mud; others are extremely dusty. In one of the brigades, only three of eight men have good lamps, and even these burn out before the end of the shift.

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CONDITIONS AT HOSTEL AND MILL ENDANGER WORKERS -- Budapest, Nepszava, 19 Jul 53

The beds in the workers' hostel of the Lorinci Hengermu (Lorinc Rolling Mills) have mattresses without bedding, and some beds have only springs. Battered pails serve as pitchers for drinking water. The water tank in the wash-room, which is used by 25 workers, has a capacity of one half cubic meter. The upper halves of the windows have no panes. The stoves have been installed improperly and the rooms are filled with smoke.

Conditions at the factory are even worse. The track of the overhead crane has cracked, so the workers are in constant danger of being crushed by steel plates weighing several tons. The Ministry of Building has refused to commission a building enterprise to repair the damage, and urges the factory itself to fix the crane.

There is no ventilating equipment in the rolling train. The shed is almost hermetically sealed. The temperature ranges between 45 and 50 degrees centigrade and the air is full of toxic coal gas from the furnaces. Although the management has been promising improved working conditions since 1951, nothing has been done.

On 13 Aug, Nepszava reported that the stoves in the workers' hostel of the Lorinci Hengermu had been repaired. However, the Ministry of Building had still done nothing to make possible the repair or replacement of the cracked crane track.⁷

PEASANT IS REFUSED SLAUGHTERING PERMIT -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 23 Jul 53

Samu Bolla, independent peasant, had been fattening a pig to fulfill delivery obligations. In March, one day before the target date, Zamek (fnu), a representative of the Allatforgalmi Vallalat (Livestock Trading Enterprise), directed Bolla to send the 170-kilo pig with the pigs from the producers cooperative. When Bolla demurred, Zamek insisted, adding that it would save Bolla the trouble of transporting the pig himself. Bolla urged Zamek to pile straw beneath the animals so that the jolting ride would not injure them, but Zamek refused. Bolla's pig broke its leg in transit.

Consequently, the pig was declared unfit to meet delivery obligations. Zamek had the injured animal returned to the local council, where it was slaughtered and eaten a week later. The case was recorded as an emergency slaughter. When Bolla asked later for a permit to slaughter a pig for his own consumption, the council refused him, saying he was in arrears with his hog delivery. Bolla, incensed at the injustice, replied that he would not harvest his wheat till he was given a slaughtering permit.

Bolla's case was finally publicized as an example of injustice to the producers, in a provincial newspaper by Imre Agoos, secretary of the village council. When the article appeared, the jaras council immediately phoned the village council and ordered that Bolla be given a permit to slaughter a pig. However, Zamek warned Agoos that his newspaper story was agitation against fulfillment of delivery obligations. A few days later Agoos received a letter from Zamek's supervisors which stated that the Allatforgalmi Vallalat had conducted an investigation of the case. The findings were as follows: "Since Samu Bolla's pig broke its leg while being taken to the delivery depot in the cart of a producers cooperative, and since the producer, not the state, is required to furnish transportation for livestock and produce, the state cannot be held responsible. Bolla's pig cannot be considered as meeting livestock requirements; Bolla is in arrears with his deliveries and the jaras

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council had no right to instruct the village council to issue the slaughtering permit to Bolla. Although we approve and appreciate criticism at all times, we recommend that in future cases the comrade consult first with the authorities in charge of produce collection, so that he will be better able to formulate his opinion."

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